

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A baking apparatus comprising:

a bottom portion;

an outer barrier extending upwardly from said bottom portion, said outer barrier defining an outer perimeter;

an inner barrier extending upwardly from said bottom portion, said inner barrier being disposed within said outer perimeter, and said inner barrier cooperating with said outer barrier and said bottom portion to form a substantially watertight reservoir, said inner barrier defining an interior portion;

a food item receiving member disposed within said interior portion, said food item receiving member being adapted for supporting a food item while: (A) said food item is being cooked; and (B) said food item is substantially surrounded by said substantially watertight reservoir; and wherein an inwardly projecting lip is disposed adjacent said inner barrier to support said food item receiving member.

17. The baking apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said bottom portion is a first bottom portion and said food receiving member comprises a second bottom portion that is adapted to be selectively detached from said baking apparatus.

18. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method of baking a cheesecake batter, said method comprising the steps of:

transferring said batter to a springform pan;

placing said springform in a baking apparatus that comprises:

an outer pan; and

an inner pan disposed entirely in said outer pan such that a watertight reservoir is disposed between said inner and outer pans, said inner pan dimensioned to receive said springform pan;

adding a liquid to said watertight reservoir; and
placing said baking apparatus into an oven.

21. (Previously Presented) The baking apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said outer and inner barriers are substantially concentric.

22. (Previously Presented) The baking apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said outer and inner barriers are substantially circular.

23. (Previously Presented) The baking apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said outer and inner barriers are substantially circular and substantially concentric.

24. (Previously Presented) The baking apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said interior portion has a diameter of about six to ten inches.

25. (Previously Presented) The baking apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said inner pan and outer pan comprise different portions of a single piece of contiguous material.

26. – 31. (Canceled)